Section 10 (b) of the MRTP Act, the MRTP Commission has issued a Notice of Enquiry dated 29.9.1992 to M/s. MRF Ltd., to enquire into the Monopolistic Trade Practices allegedly carried on by the Company.

Pending cases relating to SC/ST reservation

3730. SHRI ANAND PRAKASH GAUTAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases relating to reservation of SC/STs pending in the Supreme Court, High Courts and Central Administrative Tribunals, separately; and

(b) the number of cases in which Government have not filed counter affidavits in support of Government policy and constitutional bindings on reservation/relaxation for S.C./S.T.s and what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Liberalisation of rules to avoid harassment of directors

3731. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the PHD chamber of Commerce and Industry has urged Government to reintroduce rules that would avoid harassment of directors and other senior company executives;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereon;

(c) whether Government propose to liberalilse the rules accordingly; and

(d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) As per letter dated 30th September, 1992 of PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industries, the Chamber has forwarded the main highlights and recommendations of the workshop on Director's liability, suggesting appropriate amendments in the various Rules and legal provisions governing the operations of the Company in so far as those relate to Director's liability. It is felt that the existing provision of the Companies Act, 1956 including provision relating to the compounding of offences under Section 621A and relief from punitive action by the Court under Section 633, are adequate to safeguard the interest of Directors.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Free legal aid to the poor

3732. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the existing policy, if any for providing free legal aid to the poor;

(b) how far, according to the assessment, if any, the free legal aid policy has been successful;

(c) whether in 1977 Justice Bhagwati Committee had drafted a National Legal Service Bill for the purpose;

(d) if so, what is the decision, if any, taken by Government thereon stating the reasons for pendency of the Bill; and

(e) what steps are contemplated by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Any person whose annual income from all sources does not exceed Rs. 6,000/- upto High Court and Rs. 12,000/- for supreme Court cases is eligible for free legal aid under the Model Scheme evolved by Committee

for Implementing Legal Aid Schemes (CILAS).

(b) the legal Aid policy is being implemented successfully as is evident from the fact that 9,13,835 persons have been provided legal-aid and advice in Law Courts, as on 1.11.1992, throughout the country, which include 2,68,126 Scheduled Castes; 1,62,252 Scheduled Tribes; 62,571 Backward classes; 1,52,069 women and 6,566 children and approximately 85 lakh cases have been settled through Lok Adalats. In 1,64,876 MAC cases, compensation amounting to Rs. 349,16,29,073 has been awarded.

(c) Yes, Sir, in National Juridicare-Equal Justice-Social Justice Report.

(d) and (e) With a view to providing statutory base to the Legal Aid programmes adopted by CILAS, the Legal Services Authorities act has been passed in 1987, the Act has not been enforced, since an Amending Bill,as passed by the Rajya Sabha, is awaiting approval of the Lok Sabha.

Recommendations of Malimath Committee

3733. SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the causes made out for accumulated arrears of cases in the courts, by the Malimath Committee;

(b) what are the other recommendations made by the Committee; and

(c) the action taken, if any by government to implement those recommendations and, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ); (a) Some of the factors which contribute to accumulation of arrears of cases in the courts, identified by the Malimath Committee, are population explosion, litigation explosion, inadequacy of judge strength, lack of infrastructural facilities long arguments and prolix judgements, lawyers strike and indiscriminate resort to writ jurisdiction.

(b) The Committee has made several recommendations covering various aspects like jurisdictional and procedural modifications/improvements in the judiciary, setting up of specialised bodies such as tribunals/commissions to deal with specific types of cases, fixation of judge strength and appointments of Judges in High Courts, creation of more posts in the Subordinate judiciary and a number of other general recommendations relating to modernisation of office equipment in courts and allocation of more funds to the judiciary, etc.

(c) These recommendations have been forwarded to all concerned such as State Governments, the Central Ministries and the High Courts for necessary follow-up action. A Conference of State Law Ministers and 'Law Secretaries was organised in October, 1992 at Bangalore to suggest measures for the implementation of the recommendations made by the Malimath Committee.

Survey regarding mounting arrears in courts

3734. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any survey with regard to mounting litigation and overburdened courts in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for mounting litigation and what effective measures Government proposes for speedy disposal of cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ); (a) Yes, Sir. A Committee of three Chief Justices of High Courts was constituted by the